

Yesterday

FLOOR ACTION: House passes tax overhaul, NASA authorization.

The House easily adopted and sent to the Senate the conference report to HR 3838, a sweeping revision of the tax code.

The final vote was 292-136.

The bill would cut income tax rates for individuals and corporations and shift the burden of paying about \$120 billion in taxes through 1991 from individuals to corporations. (*Background, CQ Weekly Report p. 2183*)

In other action, the House passed, 407-8, a \$7.7 billion fiscal 1986 authorization (HR 5495) for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

The bill authorizes the construction of a new orbiter to replace the *Challenger*, but leaves it to the Appropriations committees to determine "such sums" as may be necessary for shuttle construction in addition to the \$7.7 billion for other programs. (*Background, CQ Weekly Report p. 2171*)

• At press time, members were debating H J Res 738, a catchall appropriations bill for fiscal 1987.

FLOOR ACTION: Senate bogs down in rules dispute.

With little more than a week remaining before the hoped-for adjournment of the 99th Congress, members spent several hours debating Senate rules.

Sen. Bob Kasten, R-Wis., who has been pressing for action on a product liability bill (S 2706), attempted to use a parliamentary tactic to keep South Carolina Democrat Ernest F. Hollings from speaking in opposition to the measure.

Kasten's tactic led to long and sometimes testy debate on the floor. At issue: What constitutes a speech?

Seven hours later, members overruled, 92-5, the presiding officer's ruling that Hollings could not speak, and the senator was allowed to talk.

A few minutes later, after members had voted to begin work on the measure, Majority Leader Robert Dole, R-Kan., pulled the bill, saying the measure had no chance of passage this year. (*Background, CQ Weekly Report p. 1511*)

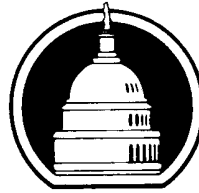
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THE CONGRESSIONAL MONITOR'S

CONGRESS DAILY

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Today's Highlights

Floor Action. The House is scheduled to consider legislation (HR 3810) revamping immigration law.

The Senate schedule is uncertain.

Continuing Resolution Markup.

The Senate Appropriations Committee marks up the largest spending measure in history (H J Res 738), topping \$560 billion. All 13 appropriations measures are rolled into the "CR."

On Wednesday, House Appropriations panel Chairman Jamie L. Whitten, D-Miss., agreed to strip a \$3.4 billion provision that would have revived the expiring general revenue sharing program from the original CR (H J Res 730). This will make the new measure easier for the Senate to accept. (*Background, CQ Weekly Report p. 2181*).

The White House opposes the bill in its present form. Defense and foreign aid were not funded at levels acceptable to the administration.

DOD Authorization. House and Senate negotiators continue work on the Department of Defense fiscal 1987 authorization bill (HR 4428/S 2638).

Conferees are meeting in small groups to deal with issues ranging from "Star Wars" funding levels to arms control. The Senate approved \$3.96 billion for the Strategic Defense Initiative and the House agreed to \$3.12 billion.

Also, negotiators must deal with House-sponsored measures that call for banning the production of chemical weapons, for cutting off funds for certain weapons programs if they exceed the unratified SALT II agreement, and for barring some underground nuclear tests.

Banking Markup. A measure (HR 2282) that would require banks and thrifts to provide customers with more information about interest rates on deposit accounts and credit cards will be marked up by the House Banking panel.

HR 2282 would require financial institutions to advertise prominently the annual yield paid on interest-earning accounts. The institutions also would have to show minimum deposit and balance requirements, as well as early withdrawal penalties, which could lower the yield earned.

Under HR 2282, credit card issuers would have to give applicants information about the annual interest rate on unpaid balances and any additional fees. Current law requires credit card companies to give the information only after the card has been issued.

HR 2282 has the backing of consumer groups. It is opposed by banks, thrifts, and the Federal Reserve on grounds that the bill would create unnecessary expenses that eventually would be passed on to the consumer.

Illegal Trade Practices. The president's chief trade negotiator will appear before the House Energy Committee's Oversight Subcommittee to discuss what the administration is doing about unfair foreign trade practices. Members will question Clayton Yeutter on what kind of retaliatory actions he has proposed during trade negotiations.



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Spending panel approves funds for HUD/independent agencies.

The Senate Appropriations Committee, by voice vote, approved a \$53.7 billion fiscal 1987 appropriations bill (HR 5313) for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and numerous independent agencies.

The panel voted to add \$30 million for emergency shelters for the homeless to the measure approved last week by the HUD/Independent Agencies Subcommittee. (*Background, CQ Weekly Report p. 2245*)

The bill contains about \$336 million less than the House-passed version of the bill. The Senate bill contains about \$12.8 billion for HUD — \$500 million below the House-passed level. Other major differences in the two bills include a Senate committee addition of \$695 million for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (for a total of \$8.35 billion) and a \$145 million Senate committee addition for the National Science Foundation (for a total of \$1.7 billion).

House panel approves satellite TV transmission, child porn bills.

The House Judiciary Committee agreed to legislation (HR 5572) that would amend copyright law to allow scrambled "superstation" television signals to be marketed to satellite dish owners. The vote was 17-12.

Rep. Robert W. Kastenmeier, D-Wis., chairman of the Courts Subcommittee, said the bill is designed to balance the rights of copyright owners, by ensuring payment for the use of their property rights, against the rights of satellite dish owners, by assuring the availability of retransmitted television signals at reasonable rates.

• The panel passed a bill (HR 5560) prohibiting the advertising of child pornography or sex acts with children. The bill also bans the transportation of children across state lines for the purpose of producing child pornography.

In addition, the committee approved a bill (HR 3737) aimed at curbing immigration-related marriage fraud.

Yeutter optimistic after initial trade talks.

The United States achieved a "full scale victory" last week as officials of the leading industrialized nations, meeting in Uruguay, kicked off a new round of trade talks, according to U.S. Trade Representative Clayton K. Yeutter. He offered the optimistic assessment at a House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee hearing.

Trade ministers from leading nations established an agenda for the "Uruguay Round" of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks, which are expected to last four years. Actual negotiations will begin later this year in Geneva.

Yeutter said the United States delegation achieved all of its objectives. The United States was able to include discussions of improved world-wide trading rules affecting agriculture, investments, trade in services and protection of intellectual property rights.

Yeutter told the subcommittee he hopes that some issues can be resolved within two years. (*Background, CQ Weekly Report p. 2083*)

Senators promise action on acid rain bill.

Seven senators vowed they will make passage of acid rain legislation a top priority next year.

In remarks made prior to a Senate Environment Committee hearing, committee Chairman Robert T. Stafford, R-Vt., said passage of legislation to reduce acid rain will be his highest priority next year. "The air in this country is a threat to the health of human beings," he said.

Stafford's remarks were echoed by panel members George J. Mitchell, D-Maine; Quentin N. Burdick, D-N.D.; Max Baucus, D-Mont.; and John H. Chafee, R-R.I. Sens. William Proxmire, D-Wis., and John Kerry, D-Mass., testified in favor of acid rain legislation (S 2203, S 2813), which has no chance of passage this year.

Stafford said that only the United States continues to take an official position that more research is needed before an acid rain reduction effort can begin.

During the hearing, representatives of the National Coal Association and the American Public Power Association said the proposed acid rain reduction efforts would be too expensive and might not yield the desired results. (*Background, CQ Weekly Report p. 2041*)

House panel begins investigating midair crashes.

The chairman of the House Public Works Oversight Subcommittee said the government has unduly prolonged its search for a perfect aircraft collision avoidance system when good systems have been available for several years.

"Air travelers have a right to ask why it takes a midair tragedy and loss of life in order to goad the guardians of air safety into action," said Rep. James L. Oberstar, D-Minn.

He said the Aug. 31 collision between a Mexican airliner and a small private plane could have been avoided had the two aircraft been equipped with devices to alert pilots to potential collisions.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced last week that it will order airlines to equip larger planes with on-board collision devices by 1989.

Primary Season Ends With Louisiana

Louisiana voters will get a jump on the rest of the nation's electorate tomorrow when they cast votes for a new U.S. senator and eight members of the House of Representatives.

Under Louisiana's unique election laws, all candidates for each post are listed on the same ballot. If any candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote, he or she is elected. If no candidate gets a majority, the top two vote-getters will have a rematch in November.

In the past, most of the Louisiana races have been decided in September.

Rep. **W. Henson Moore** is the leading candidate in the 14-way race to replace retiring Sen. **Russell B. Long**, D.; Rep. **John B. Breaux** is the Democratic frontrunner.

The contest could be pivotal in the battle for control of the Senate, where the Republicans hold a 53-47 edge.

Moore is stressing the need for political and economic change in Louisiana, which has been hard-hit by declining energy prices. He has been telling voters that the Democratic-run state administration has squandered the state's resources and failed to prepare for the current hard times.

Breaux is campaigning against Republican economic policies, especially

on trade, which he says have hurt Louisiana's agriculture, oil and petrochemical industries.

Recent polls indicate that Moore may have a chance of reaching the 50 percent mark.

Another key race in Louisiana is taking place in the 6th District, where Democrats **Tommy Hudson** and **Willis E. Blackwell** and Republican **Richard H. Baker** are seeking to replace Moore. Hudson and Baker are considered the frontrunners.

In the 7th District, four Democrats — **James David Cain**, **Margaret Lowenthal**, **Jimmy Hayes**, and **Phil Bell** — and Republican **David Thibodaux** are running for the seat that has been held by Breaux. A runoff is likely.

Voters in the 8th District will choose among four Democrats — **Carson Killen**, **Joseph A. Sevario**, **Faye Williams** and **Morgan Goudeau** — and Republican **Clyde C. Holloway** in the contest to replace Rep. **Cathy (Mrs. Gillis) Long**, D, who is retiring. No candidate is expected to receive 50 percent.

In the state's five other congressional districts, the incumbent is expected to win re-election easily. (*Background, CQ Weekly Report p. 2101*)